AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Docket No.: 4140-0110P

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A holder for a surgical needle provided with a safety release mechanism which is designed so that when the device is not in use either by way of a deliberate action on the part of the operator, or where for example the device is accidentally dropped, the needle automatically retracts within the holder to prevent injury to the operator or other persons.

> 2 JAK/njp